

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 /084 W  
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R 220709Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6268  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN  
AMEMBASSY ACCRA  
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO  
AMEMBASSY COTONOU  
AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
AMEMBASSY LOME  
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 0818

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, UV  
SUBJECT: POLITICS SIX WEEKS BEFORE THE LEGISLATIVE  
ELECTIONS

REF: OUAGADOUGOU 0597 (NOTAL)

1. THE UDV-RDA (RASSEMBLEMENT DEMOCRATIQUE AFRICAIN),  
THE FORMER MAJORITY PARTY WHICH HAS NOT LOST THE  
SUPPORT OF EX-PRESIDENT MAURICE YAMEOGA,  
HELD A NATIONAL CONVENTION IN OUAGADOUGOU FEBRUARY  
10-14. PARTY LEADERSHIP CONTINUED TO BE IMPBILIZED  
BY THE RIVALRY AMONG GERARD KANGO OUEDRAOGO  
(FORMER PRIME MINISTER), JOSEP OUEDRAOGO (FORMER  
PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY) AND JOSEPH CONUMBO  
(FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER) AND COULD NOT DECIDE ON  
A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE. THIS QUESTION WAS DELEGATED TO  
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A PARTY POLITICAL BUREAU.

2. DESPITE THE LEADERSHIP FAILURE AT THE TOP, THE  
RDA HAS A NUMBER OF STRONG FEATURES AND WILL  
PROBABLY DO WELL IN THE LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS. BELOW  
THE TOP THREE OLD-TIMERS IS A STRONG TEAM OF YOUNDER  
POLITICIANS WHO HAVE FORMED AN INFORMAL CAUCUS CALLED

THE G-12. SIX CABINET MEMBERS FROM THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT WERE ELECTED TO PARTY OFFICES BY THE CONVENTION.

3. ALSO, THE RDA APPEARS TO HAVE NEAR-SOLID BACKING OF THE HIERARCHY OF MOSSI CHIEFS, LED BY THE MORO NABA OF OUAGADOUGOU. THREE MEMBERS OF THE MORO NABA'S "COUNCIL OF MINISTERS" ARE ALSO MEMBERS OF THE RDO POLITICAL BUREAU. REPORTEDLY MOSSI CHIEFS CAN DELIVER THE VOTES OF THEIR VILLAGES, AND MOSSIS MAKE UP ALMOST HALF THE POPULATION OF UPPER VOLTA. THE RDA POLITICAL BUREAU PAID A COURTESY CALL ON THE MORO NABA FEB 15, PROBABLY IN REDOGNITION OF THIS PARTY ASSET.

4. TWO MORE SMALL (AND RELATIVELY INSIGNIFICANT) PARTIES HAVE COME OUT IN SUPPORT OF LAMIZANA IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION - THE INDEPENDENTS PRA (I.P.R.A.) AND THE GROUPE D'ACTION POPULAIRE (G.A.P.). NONE OF THE THREE LARGER PARTIES (RDA, UNDD,UPV) HAVE YET DECLARED SUPPORT FOR A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE. IT IS NOT EXCLUDED THAT ALL THREE WILL EVENTUALLY DECLARE FOR LAMIZANA AND USE ALL THEIR ENERGIES THIS TIME AROUND WORKING FOR SEATS IN THE LEGISLATURE.

5. MEANWHILE LAMIZANA CAN WAIT UNTIL APRIL 1 OT  
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DECLARE HIS CANDIDACY. NO DOUBT HE WANTS TO SEE WHAT HIS COMPETITION IS LIKELY TO BE. IT APPEARS THAT HE WILL ALSO HAVE TO RESIGN TEMPORARILY FROM THE ARMY AT THAT TIME, WHICH PROBABLY ALSO PROMPTS HIM TO DELAY A DECLARATION.

6. IN TERMS OF RESOURCES FOR THE ELECTORIAL CAMPAIGN, IT SEEMS THAT THE UNDD OF MAURICE YAMENOGO IS THE BEST FINANCED, WITH MANY PEOPLE ASSUMING THE PARTY HAS GOTTEN FINANCIAL AID FROM THE IVORY COAST. THE UPV ALSO APPEARS TO HAVE SOME FUNDS OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN TO SPEND, ALTHOUGH ON A LESSER SCALE. THE RDA IS OPPOSER IN MONETARY RESOURCES, BUT IT HAS LONG-TERM PARTY IDENTIFICATION AND THE SUPPORT OF THE MOSSI CHIEFS, TWO FACTORS WHICH MIGHT OBVIATE THE NEED FOR LARGE FINANCIAL OUTLAYS.

7. POLITICAL ACTIVITY IS PICKING UP SOMEWHAT, BUT IT STILL IS AT A LOW LEVEL CONSIDERING THAT MARCH 1 IS THE DEADLINE FOR FILING FOR THE LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS. IN THE COMING WEEKS THE INTERESTING THINGS TO WATCH WILL BE:

A. THE FORMATION OF PARTY LISTS FOR LEGISLATIVE  
ELECTION (MARCY 1 DEADLINE).  
B. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RDO,UPV AND UNDD  
PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES, IF ANY.  
C.THE TIMING AND MANNER OF PRESIDENT LAMIZANA'S  
DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. GRAHAM

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, PARTY MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978OUAGAD00818  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780079-0984  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 3  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 OUAGADOUGOU 597  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3522068  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POLITICS SIX WEEKS BEFORE THE LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014